

IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1893.

I.—LIST OF GOVERNING BODY, EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, COMMITTEES, AND EXECUTIVE STAFF.

II.—REPORT AS SUBMITTED TO AND READ AT THE SECOND GENERAL MEETING OF THE INSTITUTE, H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES, PRESIDENT, IN THE CHAIR (WEDNESDAY, 20TH DECEMBER, 1893).

III.— APPENDICES:— NUMBER AND CLASSIFICATION OF FELLOWS; RETURN OF ATTENDANCE OF VISITORS; FINANCE STATEMENT; REPORT OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 20TH DECEMBER, 1893; SPEECHES BY HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES, K.G. (PRESIDENT); AND BY THE LORD CHANCELLOR (LORD HERSCHELL, G.C.B.), CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNING BODY.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1893,
AND APPENDICES.

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1893.

[Issued under the authority of the Executive Council.]

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IMPERIAL INSTITUTE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE COLONIES AND INDIA, AND THE ISLES OF THE BRITISH SEAS.

REPORT

*Presented to the Second General Meeting of the Imperial Institute, in the
Vestibule of the Institute Buildings, on Wednesday, December 20th,
1893.*

H.R.H THE PRINCE OF WALES, K.G., *President,*
IN THE CHAIR.

BUILDINGS, &c.

The announcement referred to in the Report submitted at the First Annual Meeting of Fellows of the Imperial Institute last November, that Her Majesty the Queen had signified her intention to open the Institute in the following May, caused great and fairly successful efforts to be made to complete the Main Building and the Central Tower by that time.

The work in the Tower was so far completed in March, as to allow of the "Alexandra" Peal of Bells, presented to the Imperial Institute by Mrs. E. M. Millar, of Melbourne, and successfully cast by Messrs. J. Taylor & Sons, of Loughborough, in January, to be placed in position. The Peal, which is one of the most complete and effective in the Metropolis, was first rung on the occasion of the official opening on the 10th May, and has since been rung, as requested by the donor, and approved of by H.R.H. the President, on 22nd and 24th May, 20th June, 9th November and 1st December, and on one or two other special occasions.

The principal Vestibule was so far completed as to permit of its being occupied by a large number of spectators on the occasion of the opening ceremony, and, excepting so far as regards certain details of ornamentation not included in the Contract, it is now complete. The estimated cost of the Vestibule, as now carried out, was £10,424. The amount subscribed to the special fund created by the Lord Chancellor for meeting this expenditure is, to the present time, £7,185. 15s.

It was much desired that the entire façade of the Institute should be complete, so far at any rate as the frontage was concerned, before the official opening, but the Executive Council would not have had it in their power to realise this desire had it not been for the munificence of two friends of the Institute. One of these (a Colonial Fellow) has promised a donation of £1,000 towards the cost of erection of the West Corridor, the frontage of which has consequently been built; the other, Mr. M. M. Bhownagree, C.I.E., was desirous of executing some work in connection with the Institute as a memorial to his late sister, and decided to place £3,000 at the disposal of the Council, which has covered the main outlay incurred in completely erecting the East Corridor, which now unites the Indian Gallery with the Main Building and Indian Store-Sample Room. A tablet, in memory of the late Awabai Merwanjee Bhownagree has been placed at the western extremity of the corridor, with the sanction of His Royal Highness the President, who has approved of this addition to the building being known as the "Bhownagree Corridor."

The temporary Great Hall, which is connected with the Vestibule by the Grand Staircase and an intermediate Vestibule, was completed and decorated for the opening ceremony. It has proved to be admirably adapted by its acoustic qualities for musical performances and public speaking, and until the Institute is provided with a large lecture hall, will be utilised for the delivery of lectures, or reading and discussion of papers, and the holding of concerts, during the Winter Session. It is also admirably adapted as an occasional place of meeting for large gatherings.

Mr. J. Cowasjee Jehanghier, of Bombay, has recently presented to the Institute a donation of two lakhs of rupees (which have realised £12,500), and, in making this generous donation, Mr. Jehanghier informed the Chairman of Council that the money should be used "in any manner the Council may deem most conducive to the promotion and success of the Imperial Institute," but that he "would ask that in its disposition the special interests of India may not be lost sight of." The Council decided that the wishes of Mr. Jehanghier, in making his handsome gift to the Institute, would best be met by expending the necessary proportion of this fund in the decoration of the Indian Conference Room, and by devoting the remainder to the erection of the large Lecture and Conference Hall which, in the original accepted design for the building by Mr. Collcutt, was intended to be erected at the west end of the main structure. This Conference Hall would obviously be available for dealing with subjects of specially Indian as well as of generally Imperial importance. The detailed estimates for carrying out this work are now in preparation.

Her Majesty's Government have been in possession, since January last,

of the Upper North Gallery, which has been handed over to the Science and Art Department, and rent is being paid in conformity with the arrangements already reported.

A cart road leading from the new Prince Consort Road to the north of the Institute boundaries has been constructed, by direction of the Royal Commissioners of the 1851 Exhibition, which communicates with the western end of the North Gallery, so that heavy goods can be delivered there; a footway is also to be constructed leading from that road to the eastern end of the North Gallery.

A very serious question in connection with the buildings is that of the rates imposed upon them by the parishes of St. Margaret and St. John, Westminster, and of St. Mary Abbott's, Kensington, in both of which the Imperial Institute is situated. A provisional assessment was last year agreed to by the two parishes, subject to revision at Lady Day, 1893, by which the rateable value of the buildings was fixed at £4,168; recently the revision of the assessment by the two parishes has resulted in their fixing the rateable value at £15,877, and the Institute is now called upon to pay rates equivalent to nearly £4,000 per annum.

It is but just to the parish authorities of St. Mary Abbott's, Kensington, to state that, while they have accepted the revised assessment by the parish authorities of St. Margaret's, Westminster, they have only applied for the rates due under the first provisional assessment, pending the result of an appeal which will be made against the action of the Parochial Assessment Committee at the earliest opportunity.

OPENING CEREMONY, &c.

The unqualified success, in every respect, of the arrangements for the official opening of the Institute by the Queen on May 10th, and the absence of even the slightest untoward incident connected with the reception and departure of Her Majesty, and the carrying out of the ceremonial, were subjects for congratulation to the Special Ceremonial Committee who, under the active chairmanship and guidance of His Royal Highness the President, devoted much thought and anxious attention to all the details of that memorable function. Her Majesty the Queen was graciously pleased to communicate to the Lord Chancellor, Chairman of the Executive Council, through the Secretary of State for the Home Department, "her entire approbation of the arrangements made and carried into effect by the authorities of the Imperial Institute on the occasion of Her Majesty's visit to the Institute," and His Royal Highness the President most kindly caused to be conveyed to the entire Executive

Staff, through the Secretary, on the day of the ceremony, his most sincere congratulations on its success, together with the expression, in the most gratifying terms, of the appreciation by His Royal Highness of the unremitting labours of the staff, through whose exertions the successful execution of all arrangements, and admirable management of the proceedings, were secured.

The Inaugural Evening Reception held a week later by His Royal Highness the President, when the galleries with their collections were formally opened, was, in its special way, a memorable success, and a spectacle comparable in brilliancy with the opening ceremony. The invited guests on that occasion numbered 24,501, and 18,121 actually attended.

The expenditure connected with the opening ceremony and the evening reception amounted to about £5,000, exclusive of the cost of the temporary Great Hall. The sale of seats for the opening ceremony realised £2,541. The deficit against the funds of the Institute was, however, met by the profits resulting from the display, during eight weeks, of the wedding presents of the Duke and Duchess of York, which Their Royal Highnesses kindly allowed to take place in the galleries of the Institute, and to which Fellows and the public, during that period, were admitted free to the number of 104,798.

The success of the Evening Reception of Fellows having led to the receipt of several applications from Societies to be allowed to hold their annual conversazione at the Institute, the Executive Council resolved that such applications should be dealt with upon their individual merits, and on the understanding that, in the event of the application being accepted as legitimate, a charge should be made for the accommodation afforded, sufficient to cover the cost of lighting, attendants, and other incidentals.

INDIAN SECTION.

The progress made in the Indian Section has been very considerable during the past year, and practical proofs have already been furnished of its utility in advancing knowledge in this country regarding the natural and industrial resources of the Indian Empire, and in adding to existing acquaintance with the nature and commercial value of particular classes of products.

Nearly six thousand separate samples of products have been received for exhibition from the Revenue and Agricultural Department in India, and, with the exception of a very comprehensive collection of Indian sugars, for which case-accommodation cannot as yet be provided, specimens of the whole of these samples are exhibited in classified order in the Indian Court.

The samples in bulk are stored in the vicinity of the Indian Gallery,

according to a system which admits of expeditious access to any one of them, for the purposes of applicants desiring to examine closely any material included in the exhibited collections.

An extensive assortment of Indian woods has been received, including a series of small specimens intended as an index collection. These are displayed in the Court in trophy form, and larger samples in a partly polished condition are also shown.

The collection of textile fabrics of Indian manufacture is now extensive, and is housed partly in the Court and partly in the Indian Pavilion; the cost of erection of this was covered by a special donation to the Institute, and it forms a very attractive adjunct to the Indian Court, being devoted to illustrations of the Art-Industries of the Indian Empire. It includes the fine collection of Jeypore art metal-work and pottery exhibited last year; the unique collection of Nepaul metal-work lent by Sir Edward Durand; many specimens of silver-, copper-, brass-, and inlaid and enamelled-work from Kutch, Kashmir, the North-west Provinces, Oudh, and a few other localities. The greater portion of the carved wood-and-stone screen-work furnished by various Indian provinces to the Exhibition of 1886 is erected in the Pavilion, and utilised in part for the display of the metal-work, &c. The elaborately carved Baroda Pigeon House, the property of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, occupies the centre of this building. Additional illustrations of carved woodwork have been received this year in the form of spandrils and panels, which were specially supplied at Sir E. Buck's suggestion, together with a large number of dyed cotton fabrics, carpets, rugs and mats, for the adornment of the walls and ceiling of the Indian Court, and there are also displayed on the walls of the latter a series of maps and of charts conveying useful statistical information relating to the Indian Empire.

Numerous attractive and instructive models, executed by natives, illustrating Indian handicrafts and industries, are exhibited in the Court and Pavilion. The specimens of art metal-work displayed in the latter are really samples upon which orders may be given to the Curator, a register of their prices in India being kept, and notices to this effect being affixed to the show-cases. Purchasers of "replicas" have already been numerous.

A series of small hand-books, in pamphlet form, relating to particular classes of natural products has been prepared and printed in India under the authority of the Government, and, supplies of twenty-one of these having been received, copies have been distributed to various scientific and commercial societies and associations, to Chambers of Commerce, and to prominent technical journals. They have been favourably noticed by the Press, and numerous applications for copies (which can be purchased for a few pence) are received from merchants, &c.

Many samples of natural products, hitherto but little known, have been sent to the Institute by the Revenue and Agricultural Department of India, with the special object of their being submitted to scientific investigation, to examination by technical experts and to practical tests. A trifling sum of money has also been received from the Government of India towards covering the cost of such examinations, and a commencement has already been made with this work, illustrating the useful results to India which may be expected to accrue therefrom.

The outlay upon the equipment of the Indian Section has considerably exceeded the total allowance placed by the Government of India at the disposal of the Institute authorities for this purpose, during a period of five years. It was thought very desirable, however, that, as much progress had already been made with the arrangement of the Indian Section, it should present a fairly complete aspect on the occasion of the official opening in May last.

COLONIAL SECTION.

A very great advance has been made in this section since the date of the last Annual Meeting.

The announcement then made that the Institute would be officially opened by the Queen in May, acted as a powerful incentive to the various Colonial authorities and representatives of Colonies upon the governing body to bring the equipment of their respective Courts in the galleries of the Institute to a state of forwardness by that time. Continued progress has also been made since then, and most of the Colonies have now furnished their Courts and sent collections of their products. Much, however, still remains to be done, as the articles exhibited in many instances still consist largely, or almost entirely, of old specimens and collections transferred to the Institute from the Colonial and Indian Exhibition of 1886.

The following is a brief statement of the progress made in each section since the date of the last Report.

In the *NEW SOUTH WALES COURT*, a good collection of specimens of timbers and of minerals, which were transferred to the Institute by the Exhibition of 1886, formed the basis of its present equipment, no contributions for the collections having been sent by the Government; but the Curator, Mr. C. A. W. Lett, succeeded in bringing together, from various sources in the Metropolis, a fairly representative collection of the natural products and of illustrations of local industries of that Colony, prior to the official opening of the Institute. Special accommodation was accorded to this section for the installation of an example of the refrigerating machines and cold chambers fitted up in the ships which bring over meat

and other perishable articles of food from the Australasian Colonies. Besides beef and mutton, game, dairy produce and fruit, as imported in this way, have been exhibited in the chamber. A selection of exhibits from the New South Wales section at Chicago is now on its way to the Institute. The Curator reports that the collection of products, together with the information which he is enabled to furnish, have already resulted in the creation of new demands for some of the most important articles of commerce which the Colony can supply, notably fresh provisions and woods of different kinds, several of the latter being now under practical test for a variety of purposes. The principal object of the sample collections brought together in the Institute, namely, that of promoting an acquaintance with the resources of the Colonies, and thus advancing the commercial interests of distant parts of the Empire, is already in course of attainment.

The equipment of the VICTORIAN COURT was carried out in all its details in the Colony itself; the cases, dividing screens, &c., having been constructed there from indigenous woods, and the collection of products and illustrations of local industries completely arranged and publicly exhibited, in Melbourne, prior to their transmission to the Institute. The collection was brought over and arranged in the gallery, before the opening, by the Hon. L. L. Smith, who was sent to England, as Chairman of the Victorian Exhibition Trustees to represent the Colony at the opening of the Institute. It is one of the most comprehensive collections in the galleries of the resources of a Colony, and illustrates not only the natural products of Victoria, but also the extent to which trades and handicrafts have been there developed to meet local requirements. The important progress made in the culture of the grape and production of wines in Victoria is well represented. A very fine collection of photographs illustrating scenery, public buildings, &c., in Victoria forms an attractive feature of this Court, as does also the very complete collection of models of famous Victorian gold nuggets. Great credit is due to the Victorian Exhibition Trustees for the thoroughness with which the equipment of this Court has been carried out. A catalogue of its contents has been supplied by the Trustees, and important commercial results are already in course of attainment through the agency of the Victorian Collection.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA has supplied a good collection of its agricultural products and its woods; and a very prominent feature in the Court is the display of the South Australian wines, which are assuming great importance among Australian articles of export. The characteristics of its indigenous timbers are illustrated by the dividing screens, and by some articles of furniture. Further contributions to the collection are expected, and there have been during the past summer occasional exhibits of the very beautiful fresh fruits which are now imported from this Colony.

The QUEENSLAND Government has also had the necessary cases for the furnishing of their Court made in the Colony itself, and they afford excellent illustrations of the adaptability of some of the varieties of beautiful timber in which the Colony abounds to the construction of furniture and house fittings. These cases have only recently arrived, and the Court (which also embraces New Guinea) was therefore temporarily furnished in time for the opening for the display of the minerals, collections of eucalyptus oils, and of other important products, many of which were transferred to the Institute from the 1886 Exhibition. A handsome trophy of the excellent building stones of Queensland is a prominent feature in this Court. The screens separating the individual Courts of many of the Colonies have been constructed of indigenous ornamental woods, and among the most beautiful specimens of timbers thus displayed are those of Queensland.

The Section of WESTERN AUSTRALIA is enclosed by screens made of indigenous woods, and is furnished with handsome cases, constructed in the Colony for the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, from which the minerals now exhibited in the Court were transferred. The most important commercial exhibit in this Court consists of very fine specimens of Jarrah and Karri woods, and of illustrations of their cultivation; the Representative on the Governing Body for this Colony, Sir Malcolm Fraser, has, however, just been informed that a further collection of minerals and other natural products has been dispatched to the Institute.

TASMANIA was early in the field with its display of natural products and illustrations of local manufactures, the collection of which was undertaken by a Special Committee, having for its Executive Officer Mr. T. C. Just, Corresponding Agent to the Imperial Institute. The Exhibits include an interesting collection of minerals, illustrations of the metallurgic riches of the Colony, very fine specimens of river trout, models of the magnificent fruit exported from Tasmania (specimens of the fresh fruit having occasionally been displayed), and samples demonstrating the valuable qualities of a cement manufactured there.

NEW ZEALAND was somewhat late in determining to be represented by its natural products in the Institute, but, thanks chiefly to the indefatigable exertions of Sir Walter Buller, one of its representatives upon the Governing Body, it makes as imposing, instructive and representative a display as any of the Australasian Colonies. Some magnificent specimens of Kauri, Cedar, Honeysuckle and other celebrated woods of the Colony are shown, together with illustrations of their applications to structural and ornamental purposes. The building stones, some of them of very fine quality, are illustrated by a trophy of blocks; fine specimens of coal are shown, and other products which are valuable articles of export, such as Kauri gum, hemp and flax,

wools, tinned meats and agricultural produce are represented by specimens, usually on a large scale. The attractiveness of the Court is increased by photographic illustrations of different classes of sheep, of cereal culture, and of costumes lent by Sir Walter Buller, which are very skilfully made by the Maoris from hemp, flax, feathers and skins. A space in the Eastern Garden was ceded to New Zealand on which to erect a kiosk for the reception of a refrigerating plant worked electrically, and a cold-chamber constructed of glass, in which the perishable food products of New Zealand were shown as exported in specially fitted ships.

Space has been allotted to the several Australasian Colonies in the Upper Intermediate Gallery, directly above their Courts in the Lower Gallery, which is available for the reception of further extensions of their collections, and Victoria, Queensland and New Zealand have already availed themselves to some extent of this extra accommodation.

The beautifully arranged Court of CEYLON, which was the first to be completely equipped, has now a rival in the adjoining Court of the STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, being separated from it by a handsome screen constructed of woods from the latter Colony at the cost of the Sultan of Johore. The products of the Straits Settlements, in many respects similar to those of Ceylon, are represented by a very comprehensive collection, including the preserved fruits of the Colony, notably the Singapore pine-apples. Many specimens of canes, fibres and mats adorn the walls of the Court.

A very interesting and handsome collection has recently been received from HONG KONG, which is in course of arrangement in a Court adjoining that of the Straits Settlements.

JAMAICA occupies foremost rank among the West Indian Colonies already represented in the Institute Collections, and this is mainly due to the individual exertions and the liberality of Mr. Washington Eves, who represents that Colony upon the Governing Body. Until very shortly before the official opening, the products of Jamaica were only represented, as is still the case with several of the West Indian Colonies, by specimens transferred from the 1886 Collections, many of these being in a poor state of preservation. But by the middle of May last, Mr. Washington Eves had collected, and personally superintended the arrangement of, a very comprehensive collection of the chief products of Jamaica—sugars, coffee, rum, cocoa, spices, starches, barks, &c., in addition to some interesting specimens of lace and other native workmanship. The Court is embellished by photographs of the scenery and social life of the Colony, and by some very instructive charts. There is a trophy of good samples of the indigenous timbers, and the manner in which these lend themselves to ornamental purposes is illustrated by beautiful screens constructed under the direction of Mr. Eves, who has

accepted the post of Honorary Curator for Jamaica, British Honduras and Bahamas.

The most important exhibit in the BAHAMAS COURT, which adjoins that of Jamaica, is a good display of the *Sisal* fibre, the cultivation of which has acquired great importance in those Islands. The Court is, however, fitted up for a much larger display of Bahamas' products, which the Government is taking active measures to secure, having provided a liberal grant for that purpose. Only small displays are as yet made by several other West Indian Colonies, chiefly of samples transferred from the 1886 Exhibition. It is in contemplation to send to the Institute a good collection of the products of Trinidad, which has been exhibited at Chicago.

BERMUDA has sent samples of arrowroot, specimens of indigenous woods, and a few other articles of local value, and MALTA displays laces, and some excellent examples of the carved stone work in which it excels, and which appears likely, from enquiries received, to come into demand for internal ornamentation, through the display made at the Institute. CYPRUS also shows samples of native workmanship.

The BRITISH AFRICAN Court is being gradually equipped; the display from the Cape Colony was arranged by the opening day, by the Curator, Mr. Lewis Atkinson, and consists of minerals, including gold-bearing quartz and crocidolite; building stones, coal, specimens of timber (some of these having been transferred from the 1886 Exhibition), and of representative collections of wools, ostrich feathers, dried fruits, agricultural produce, wines, and of other articles of indigenous production, among which furs and dressed skins are prominent. Some fine specimens of diamonds have been exhibited in the Court, but the collection does not at present include any permanent representatives of this attractive and important source of wealth of the Cape Colony. A consignment from the exhibits of this Colony at Chicago is shortly expected, and its natural resources will then, it is believed, be thoroughly well represented.

NATAL was at first only represented by a collection of building stones, woods, and a few samples of other products. This Colony has, however, already dispatched several consignments of native products well worthy of attention, including a variety of agricultural produce, tea, coffee, sugar, tobacco, barks, angora hair and silk cocoons. A collection representative of the natural resources of ZANZIBAR was also received some time since. Interesting specimens of native workmanship were recently sent to the Queen from BECHUANA-LAND and MASHONA-LAND by the Misses Sheppard, sisters of the British Administrator of the first-named Colony, and have been placed at the disposal of the Imperial Institute by Her Majesty.

A very creditable display of the special products of the MAURITIUS and

SEYCHELLES has been obtained and carefully arranged by Mr. H. J. Jourdain, the representative of Mauritius upon the Governing Body. The vanilla-bean, sugars, rum, fibres and tortoise-shell are the prominent articles, and the collection includes interesting specimens of native workmanship.

BRITISH GUIANA has not yet transmitted any new exhibits, but the articles transferred from the 1886 Exhibition include some fine specimens of timber, and a variety of other natural products of considerable commercial interest.

It was to be expected that the DOMINION OF CANADA would be thoroughly well represented in the Imperial Institute Collections, and, that such will be the case ere long, there is now no doubt, as consignments from the exhibits at Chicago of several of the Provinces are shortly expected. A considerable collection of the products of the different Provinces was transferred from the 1886 Exhibition, and these have been supplemented by several consignments, the Provinces of Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia, being at the present time those most adequately represented. Prominent among the QUEBEC exhibits is a fine collection of furs obtained from the Hudson's Bay Company through the kindness of one of the Governors, Sir Donald Smith, who has been, from the first, a generous supporter of the Institute. This collection is really representative of the wealth in furs of all parts of the Dominion. The mineral resources of Quebec are well represented, the most prominent among them being *apatite* or natural phosphate of lime, a valuable material for artificial manure, and *asbestos*. The ONTARIO collection is chiefly prominent in exhibits of the mineral wealth of this Province, nearly all the economic metals being represented by ores which occur there in abundance, and among which the nickel ore of the famous Sudbury mine is of prominent interest. The petroleum wells of Ontario are represented by a good collection of specimens of the various products obtained at Petrolia. The mineral wealth of BRITISH COLUMBIA is, at present, scarcely adequately represented. On the other hand, the Province exhibits an excellent collection of agricultural produce, prepared fruit, and tinned salmon, one of its most important articles of commerce. It also displays magnificent specimens of the Douglas Fir and other native woods, and in this direction the QUEBEC, ONTARIO and NEW BRUNSWICK Sections are also all well represented, while all three have excellent displays illustrating their agricultural wealth. At present, the NOVA SCOTIA exhibits are chiefly confined to some illustrations of the great fish-industry of the Province, and to some large masses of iron ores transferred from the 1886 Exhibition. The great agricultural resources of MANITOBA are worthily represented by a very comprehensive collection of cereals, &c., and attention is directed to the attractions which this Province offers to the

sportsman by an interesting collection of stuffed birds, and of heads of wapiti, cariboo and other large game. The contributions from the NORTH-WEST PROVINCES are at present limited chiefly to some illustrations of the agricultural wealth of this vast district. The attractiveness of the Canadian Courts is increased by a number of fine photographs of scenery, pictorial illustrations of agricultural operations, and maps of the districts through which the great Canadian Railways pass, and a very interesting and instructive tabular statement of statistics for several years past, illustrative of the great progress of Canadian trade, is shown at the end of the Court.

The foregoing imperfect sketch of the present condition of the collections comprised in the Colonial Section will suffice to afford some idea of the great progress made in the development of this Department of the Institute. That the existence of the collections of Indian and Colonial products is already fruitful of useful work to the commercial world at home, is demonstrated by the applications frequently received by the Curators for New South Wales, Victoria, Africa, Canada and India for information regarding particular products, with a view to commercial transactions.

UNITED KINGDOM SECTION.

It has been considered prudent to delay any preliminary steps for the organisation of the export and import collections, which this section is destined to comprise, until the Indian and Colonial collections have been more thoroughly completed, and, meanwhile, to utilise the principal Gallery (the lower North Gallery) allotted to the United Kingdom for carrying out one part of the original scheme of the Organising Committee, viz., the display, from time to time, of small Exhibitions of a special character, illustrative of the recent progress and condition of development at the time, in the United Kingdom and other constituent parts of the Empire, of one or more selected industries. It is probable that such exhibitions will deal alternately with industries which apply especially to the utilisation of the natural resources of the Colonies and India, and with industries which are representative of prominent branches of commerce and trade in the United Kingdom, contributions to the latter Exhibitions from the Colonies and India being also invited. The success with which large numbers of visitors to an exhibition, held at the Institute, could be dealt with was demonstrated by the recent Wedding Presents display, and the Council have therefore decided to hold next year an Exhibition of China, Pottery and Glass, the exhibits to be illustrative exclusively of Imperial Manufacture. Preliminary steps have already been taken to organise the necessary arrangements; and

a number of gentlemen who prominently represent the most important branches of these Industries have consented to act, together with selected members of the Governing Body, as a Committee of Advice. It is proposed to open the Exhibition in May next.

The two Gardens into which the North or Exhibition Gallery opens, and which are connected with each other by a covered way, will, as was demonstrated this year, form an attractive supplement to exhibitions of this kind, to the interest and instructiveness of which it is hoped to add by the exhibition of processes in operation.

It is not anticipated that the receipts accruing from exhibitions of this class can be relied upon to do more than possibly meet the expenditure to be incurred in connection therewith, but the Council believe that the demonstration of the progress made in different parts of the United Kingdom, the Colonies and India, in the development of branches of particular industries, must prove fruitful of useful results, and that competition, valuable in its results, between the different Colonies, will be also encouraged by these Exhibitions, in regard particularly to the cultivation and preparation for the market of their natural products.

EMIGRATION DEPARTMENT.

Steps have been taken to supplement the useful work which has been carried on for some years past by the Emigrants' Information Office, which is connected with the Colonial Office. The Curators of certain of the Colonial sections are applied to from time to time for information by intending emigrants, and this is especially the case in the Canadian section, where Mr. Harrison Watson, the Curator, has taken considerable trouble to collect, and have available for enquirers, printed information relating to the several Provinces. Among the daily free-visitors to the collections, averaging about 1,500, there are many who make enquiries bearing upon the prospects of intending emigrants to the countries which are represented by their products in the Institute.

The Executive Council received an application last summer from a very active and successful organisation for aiding female emigration, to be provided gratuitously with accommodation in the Institute for the transaction of its business, and especially for the reception of applicants for aid from the Society, and they readily acceded to this request, believing that the housing of this Association in the Institute would be of direct benefit to the cause of emigration. The United British Women's Emigration Association has, therefore, its enquiry office at the Imperial

Institute, and operates in communication with the curators of the Colonial sections. The Association has workers in correspondence with it in all parts of the United Kingdom, and has branches in Scotland and Ireland and in some provincial centres. Its last annual report shews that, in the preceding year, 443 persons, women, children, and men being members of assisted families, had been sent out to different parts of the Empire by the Association and the Societies working with it.

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND PRACTICAL RESEARCH.

The collections of natural products which are received from the Indian Government and the Governments of the various Colonies, include samples of materials which are either little known, or have not been, as yet, at all made the subject of scientific investigation or of practical examination and experiment.

One important function which it is desired that the Institute should fulfil, is, to furnish to manufacturers and merchants as full details as practicable relating to the nature, properties, extent, probable facility and cost of supply, &c., of natural products of the kind above indicated, received from different parts of the Empire; to furnish to the Colonies and India thoroughly reliable information regarding the industrial value of, and probable demand for, such of their indigenous products as are not yet general articles of commerce; and also to supply such information as may possibly lead to improvements in cultivation, collection, packing, transport, and other matters, relating to materials which are already, or have prospects of becoming, staple supplies from the Colonies and India to the United Kingdom, and other Countries.

One essential preliminary to the organisation of this important branch of the contemplated work of the Institute is, the establishment of a department to deal with the subjects of scientific research and practical or expert examination and testing, which are indispensable to its operations.

The resources at the disposal of the Institute authorities, unfortunately, do not admit, for the present, of the establishment and maintenance of a department of scientific and practical research in the Institute itself, nor for the expenditure of any important proportion of the ordinary income of the Institute upon the adequate remuneration of men, thoroughly competent to carry on research work, who might be able to pursue investigations for the Institute in laboratories which are at their disposal.

It is thought, however, that the proposal that the Institute will provide supplies of new materials for investigation, may induce workers, who have

already acquired a scientific position by published researches, to accept some kind of honorary official relationship to the Institute, and who, while publishing through channels which may seem best to themselves, the detailed results of investigations of the materials thus supplied to them, would agree, upon these terms, to furnish to the Institute early and condensed reports on the main results of their work.

A joint action between such workers and practical authorities in particular branches of industry, or practical experts holding official positions analogous to their own, in connection with the Institute, might be promoted by the organisation which it is proposed to develop, and their co-operation to mutual advantage might thus be conjoined to the benefits which would accrue to particular Colonies from the creation or further development of branches of trade.

The securing of the collaboration of practical experts upon a footing, in connection with the Institute, similar to that of the scientific experts, is, therefore, another measure for the establishment of this organisation which the Institute authorities desire to carry out.

It should be stated that one or two preliminary steps have already been taken towards bringing into practical operation the scheme above indicated.

A number of fibres, not at present in the market, sent by the Government of India as likely to prove suitable for brush-making and other purposes, have been submitted to experiment by a practical expert of acknowledged standing, and useful reports have been furnished thereon by him, which have been transmitted to the Government of India.

Supplies of certain vegetable products, some of which are already being made the subject of scientific investigation and practical experiment by Messrs. Hummel and Perkin, of the Yorkshire College, Leeds, have been furnished to Professor Hummel, and further supplies are being obtained for the College from India. Important additions have also been made to the collection of specimens of dyeing and tanning materials at the Leeds College from the collections of the Institute.

Messrs. Merck, of Darmstadt, asked some time since to be supplied with samples of Indian opium with a view to determine whether the drug from that source could be advantageously used for the manufacture of alkaloids. Samples have been furnished to them, and the results of their examination by Mr. Merck have been communicated to the Indian Government.

A small sum has been placed at the disposal of the Institute authorities by the Government of India to meet expenses connected with the experimental investigations of new materials, and there can be little doubt that if once the practical value of the department which it is proposed

to organise has been demonstrated, funds will be forthcoming from the Colonies and India and from other sources, for its support and development into a very important section of the Imperial Institute.

With a view to ascertain how far support and assistance might be counted upon, on the part of Scientific Authorities, in the organisation of the proposed Research Department, a number of eminent scientific men, each one of them specially identified with a particular branch of research bearing upon the utilisation of natural products, have been invited to serve upon a Committee of Advice, and all who have been so invited have cordially agreed to give their services, while expressing their appreciation of the value and importance of the work which it is desired to undertake. This Committee of Advice will shortly commence its deliberations.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

The organisation upon an efficient footing of the Commercial Intelligence Department, which is destined to become one of the most useful sections of the Institute, has made but slow progress during the past year, the funds necessary for the establishment of a small working staff being at present not available. It has therefore been impossible as yet to do more than deal with the somewhat numerous enquiries for information which are received from various parts of the Empire; their miscellaneous character affords good illustrations of the wide-spreading nature of the work which this department could in a very short time set on foot, if the necessary resources were available. It has been gratifying to the Executive of the Institute to find that, even before the contemplated systematic correspondence with the Colonies has been established, not a single application for information has been received which it has not been possible to meet satisfactorily.

Pending the general establishment of corresponding agencies in Provincial and Colonial centres, which cannot be undertaken until the Department of Commercial Intelligence has been placed upon a thoroughly working footing, the Council have acceded to applications which have been spontaneously made by several important Provincial Geographical Societies, to be affiliated to the Institute.

An arrangement has been made with the Secretary of Lloyd's, under which the Institute is supplied thrice daily, by special messenger, with the latest shipping and casualty intelligence, which is posted in the Fellows' News Room.

Great progress has been made in the equipment of the MAP ROOM, which has been arranged so as to allow of easy reference to the classified maps which it contains.

In June last a circular letter was addressed to the several Government offices, to the Governments of the various Colonies and to the principal Geographical Societies of the United Kingdom, in response to which authoritative maps have been received from most of the Colonies ; the India Office has presented a copy of the Indian Atlas (in 260 sheets) together with a comprehensive selection of their other maps ; the Admiralty has promised to supply a set of their charts ; the War Office, through its Intelligence Division, has sent a great number of the maps published by that Department ; the Chartered Companies have presented a few maps ; the One-Inch Ordnance Survey of Great Britain and Ireland has been received from the Board of Agriculture, and several maps, with promises of more, have arrived from Geographical Societies.

The number of maps in the Collection (excluding the Ordnance Survey and the Indian Atlas, which number about 900 sheets together) is about 510.

This year's Edition of the "Imperial Institute Year Book," which was published in August, was carefully revised by the Literary Assistant, Mr. H. H. Hebb, by means of the official information received from the various Colonial Governments and other authorities. Copies of official maps supplied by the Governments of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania, and several additional statistical diagrams, have been included in this Edition, for which there has been so unexpectedly great a demand, especially from Fellows, who can purchase the work at cost price, that it has been out of print for the last three months. The necessary steps are being taken to issue the Edition for 1894 early in the year.

NEWS AND READING ROOMS.

In the News and Reading Rooms considerable additions have been made to the number of newspapers and periodicals. With regard to newspapers, nearly all the British Colonies and Possessions are represented, and the total number of Colonial newspapers now regularly received is 90. In addition to these, there are 25 provincial and 55 daily and weekly London papers. The monthly and quarterly periodicals to be found in the Reading Room now number 32.

A certain number of the papers have been filed ; the "Times" has been bound in quarterly volumes, and a valuable addition to this section of the Library has been received from a recent member of the Council, Mr. William Crookes, in the form of bound volumes of the "Times" from 1876 to 1890.

Some duplicate copies of papers are placed in the Smoking Room for the convenience of Fellows using it.

The accommodation in the News and Reading Rooms is at present sufficient, except that occasionally in the afternoons the Reading Room becomes rather crowded.

LIBRARY.

The following statement shows in brief the progress made in the formation of the Library since November, 1892 :—

The total number of volumes now in the Library is nearly 9,000, the increase during the past twelve months being about 2,500. The additions made consist chiefly of Parliamentary Papers and other Government publications, about 500 being works on history, geography, travel, &c. The principal donations have been from the Colonial Office, the India Office, the Northbrook Society, the Statistical Society, the Royal Asiatic Society, and the Governments of Canada, New South Wales and Victoria. Parliamentary Papers, Blue Books, and Statistical Registers have been received regularly from the various Colonial Governments, and the Government Gazettes have been carefully filed. The learned Societies which have presented sets of their proceedings and transactions have continued to supply copies of their publications.

The formation of a special section of the Library, consisting of works in the various native languages throughout the world, was commenced in October last. This collection is intended to be made easily accessible to students and to persons intending to become missionaries and travellers. As soon as it is sufficiently complete, it is proposed to print and distribute widely a list of the books. The number at present received is 112, being mainly donations from various missionary societies. It is anticipated that this new section of the library may prove of special service.

The catalogue of the works of general interest on history, geography, travel, &c., of which there are now about 2,500 in the library, has been completed. A catalogue of the Parliamentary papers, and other official publications is in course of preparation, and will shortly be finished.

The number of readers in the library has largely increased, and works are frequently consulted by business men on commercial questions. Applicants have in most cases been able to obtain adequate information, and several authors have found the library very useful in the preparation of their works.

The available shelf-space in the room at present allotted to the library, is now almost entirely filled, and the provision of further accommodation must shortly become a matter for consideration.

ESTABLISHMENT.

In view of the progress which was being made in setting on foot the technical branches of work of the Institute, the Executive Council came to the conclusion, some time since, that it was necessary to provide the Secretary and Director with an assistant qualified to undertake the general supervision of the collections of products, and to afford assistance in the direction of technical work of various kinds. The post of Technical Sub-Director has therefore been created, and a gentleman of high qualifications, Dr. Theodore Cooke, C.I.E., has been appointed to it.

SCHOOL FOR MODERN ORIENTAL STUDIES.

But little progress has been made in the development of the school during the past year. The classes are not as well attended as it is wished.

The "Ouseley" Scholarship of 1893, for Arabic, was awarded to Mr. H. Leitner, junr., and with the consent of the Trustees there will be a re-examination of Candidates for the 1893 Scholarship for Persian.

The Scholarships to be competed for in 1894 will be for Hindustani, Persian and Chinese.

Efforts are being made to influence some important bodies to take measures which would greatly develop and enhance the usefulness of the school, and it is hoped that means may ere long be provided for organising evening classes with a special view to colloquial instruction by native teachers and readers.

THE ANGLO-RUSSIAN LITERARY SOCIETY.

A small Association of Russian Scholars and others desiring to acquire familiarity with that language and its literature, is allowed the use of a room in the Institute which is also at the disposal of Members of the School of Oriental Studies.

FELLOWS AND THEIR PRIVILEGES.

Various additional advantages have been secured to Fellows (numbering now over 8,400) since the regulations regarding them were first determined upon.

Fellows resident out of the United Kingdom who have an annual subscription of £1 may compound for their subscriptions by the payment of £10, provided that, in the event of their becoming residents in the United

Kingdom, they make up their life membership subscription to that paid by resident Fellows.

The Wives of Fellows, who are entitled to become Fellows on the payment of an annual subscription of £1, are allowed to compound for their subscriptions by the payment of £10. Members of the Northbrook Society who, by agreement upon that Society's affiliation to the Institute, pay a subscription of £1, enjoy the same privilege.

Fellows who, having been elected when out of the United Kingdom, pay £1 as their annual subscription, can compound for their subscriptions by the payment of £10, and such Fellows, on visiting the United Kingdom, can avail themselves for a period of three months of the full privileges of a Fellow. But, if their residence in the United Kingdom extends beyond that period they can only continue to enjoy the full privileges of a resident Fellow upon payment of an additional subscription of £1 for every year during which they continue to reside in the United Kingdom.

As regards subscriptions, two financial years have been adopted for the convenience of Fellows. Subscriptions paid between 1st January, and 30th June, cover the period ending the 31st of the following December, and those paid between 1st July and the 31st December cover the period ending 30th June following.

The social section of the Institute has been greatly developed during the past year. The equipment of the News Room, Reading Room and Library has been made more complete ; the Refreshment Department is in efficient working order, although the somewhat cramped nature of the kitchens and the limited accommodation in the Fellows' Dining Room renders it at times very difficult to cope with an unexpected influx of visitors. A good Billiard Room with two tables has been provided in communication with the Smoking Room, and the latter is supplied with Chess, Newspapers, &c. The Gardens laid out in the two larger quadrangle enclosures, and in which Music and Refreshments were provided on afternoons and evenings during the past Summer Session, have been a considerable source of attraction to Fellows and their friends. The Galleries of the Institute are specially reserved for Fellows and friends admitted by them on two evenings weekly in the summer and one evening weekly in the winter. A series of addresses, papers and lectures by prominent authorities, on subjects connected with the Colonies, India, and matters of general Imperial interest, have been arranged for (and are in course of delivery), to which Fellows have free access for themselves and two friends ; these are becoming highly appreciated, and it is confidently anticipated that the character and the cost of such *musical* entertainments, as are also being held weekly, will allow of these being continued without detriment either to the position or to the finances of the Institute.

In organising the arrangements just indicated as tentative measures, the Executive Council recognise the necessity, and indeed the wisdom, of rendering the Institute and its resources as attractive to the public as is compatible with the maintenance of the high position which it should occupy among the National Institutions of the Empire. It is a source of much satisfaction to them to be able to direct attention to the marked success which, as shewn in this Report, has already attended the efforts made to develop for the undertaking a sphere of wide-spread usefulness, worthy of an Institution created to serve as a memorial of one of the most eventful Reigns upon record. That object can, of course, be only gradually attained, by cautious but continuously persistent labour. The retarding influence, exerted at the outset by the limits of available resources, upon the progress which it is desired to make in certain important directions, should not be allowed to operate discouragingly upon those whose one object is to assist in laying a thoroughly secure foundation to the future of the Imperial Institute.

APPENDIX.

NUMBER AND CLASSIFICATION OF FELLOWS.

The following statement shows the composition of the Fellows' Roll as it stood on December 12th, 1893 :—

	GENTLEMEN.	LADIES.	TOTALS.	
NON-PAYING FELLOWS :				
Honorary Life Fellows	3	1	4	
Foundation Life Fellows	56	3	59	
Chartered Life Fellows	492	16	508	571
FELLOWS WHO HAVE COMPOUNDED :				
At £20 each	684	22	706	
At £10 each	75	35	110	816
ANNUALLY SUBSCRIBING FELLOWS :				
Chartered Fellows who have waived their right of non-payment and who pay £2 per annum				
£2 " "	93	—	93	
£2 " "	5,197	316	5,513	
£1 " "	778	628	1,406	7,012
Totals	7,378	1,021	8,399	8,399

To the above total may be added the result of the elections by the Executive Council on December 13th, when 80 names were added to the roll, making the grand total on that date, 8,479.

The following august personages have accepted the Honorary Fellowship of the Institute :—

1. HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY THE GERMAN EMPEROR, K.G.
2. HER IMPERIAL MAJESTY THE EMPRESS FREDERICK OF GERMANY.
3. HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE BELGIANS, K.G.
4. HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF ROUMANIA.

ATTENDANCE OF VISITORS.

The following Statement shews the number and classification of Visitors to the Institute between the 10th of May and the 16th of December, 1893 (*exclusive of the use made of the Fellows' Apartments by Fellows and their friends every week-day and Sundays*).

SUMMER AND AUTUMN SEASON.

(May 10th to September 9th.)

Free Admissions.		Paying Admissions.				Total Visitors during Summer Season.
General Public (3 days per week).	Fellows (Every week-day.)	General Public (4 days per week).			Fellows' Friends (Tickets every week-day).	
		s. d. 1/-	s. d. -/6	s. d. -/3		
107,773	29,388	109,416	82,588	3,145	30,904	363,214

WINTER SEASON.

(September 11th to December 16th.)

Free Admissions (to the Collections only).			Paying Admissions.	Total Visitors during period of Winter Season to Dec. 16th.
General Public (Every week-day).	Fellows (Every week-day).	Fellows' Friends (Every week-day).		
42,211	9,064	6,769	2,093	60,137

GRAND TOTALS.

(From May 10th to December 16th.)

Free Visitors.	General Public	149,984	195,205
	Fellows	38,452	
	Fellows' Friends	6,769	
	Guests and Visitors at—		
	Opening Ceremony	19,140	
	Inaugural Reception	18,121	
Receptions by certain Societies, &c....	7,959	45,220	
			240,425
Paying Visitors.	General Public (by payment at doors) ...	195,149	228,146
	Fellows' Friends (on payment for tickets)	32,997	
			<u>468,571</u>
GRAND TOTAL OF VISITORS (May 10th to December 16th)			<u>468,571</u>

FINANCE.

The accounts of the Institute are made up from the 1st of January to the 31st of December in each year, but they are audited monthly by Messrs. Lovelock, H. W. S. Whiffin, and Dickinson, Chartered Accountants.

The following is an approximate statement (subject to the final audit) of the financial position of the Institute for the present year ending on December 31st:—

The CAPITAL ACCOUNT shews a total receipt by donations of £412,586, and of this sum £13,503 was contributed during the present year 1893. [The Jehanghier donation of £12,500 having been contributed for specific purposes is not included in the account.] To the account is added the value of outstanding promised donations, £2,500; and £13,651, being nine-tenths of the amount of Life Compositions by Fellows; and the surplus of Income over Expenditure in the present year, £4,306.

The appropriation for the Endowment Fund, as provided by the Charter, absorbed £140,597, and the payments on contracts for buildings, plant, machinery, furniture and fittings, and outstanding liabilities thereon, independently of the North Gallery, which being partly leased to the Government, constitutes an item of investment from the Endowment Fund, shew a total of £299,864. Payments were made towards expenses of Organization (1886—1892) to the value of £4,142.

The INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR 1893 shews *Receipts* by Investments and Rents to be £6,120; by Fellows' Subscriptions, £14,097; by admission fees (including sale of Opening Ceremony tickets, catalogues, programmes, &c.), £14,156; by sale of, and advertisements in, the Year Book, £660; and other receipts, £603, making a total of £35,636. The *Expenditure* against this amount is £31,330, made up as follows:—General administration, £7,160; maintenance and care of Buildings, £4,030; Lighting, Heating and Ventilation, £3,100; Collections, Exhibitions (including Royal Wedding Presents), Galleries, Gardens, &c., £7,200; expenses of Opening Ceremony (May 10th) and Inaugural Reception (May 17th), £5,000; Library and News Room and Year Book, £700; School of Modern Oriental Studies, £110; special contributions towards installation of Colonial and Indian collections, £530; and outstanding accounts, £3,500.

The surplus of Income over Expenditure for the present year is approximately £4,306, but this surplus has had, and will still have, to be expended to meet liabilities on the Capital Account, connected with the completion and equipment of the buildings; it will, moreover, suffer considerable reduction if the recent decision of the parish authorities, in regard to the local rating of the buildings, is maintained.

IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.

ANNUAL MEETINGS, 1893.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales (President) presided on Wednesday, December 20th, at 3.30 p.m., at the Annual Meeting of the Governors of the Institute, which was held in the Council Room. The following, among other Governors, were present:—The Lord Chancellor (Lord Herschell), Chairman of the Governing Body, Sir G. F. Bowen, Sir John Cox Bray, Sir Daniel Cooper, Major-Gen Sir Owen Tudor Burne, Sir Walter L. Buller, Mr. Frederick Elkington, General George Erskine, Sir John Evans, Mr. Charles Washington Eves, Sir James Garrick, Sir Robert Herbert, Mr. John Hollams, Mr. John Howard, Mr. H. J. Jourdain, Lord Knutsford, Mr. Westby Brook Perceval, Lord Playfair, Sir Rawson W. Rawson, Mr. Peter Redpath, Lord Rothschild, Sir Saul Samuel, Lord Thring, Gen. J. T. Walker, Mr. W. H. Willans, Sir Alexander Wilson.

Sir Frederick Abel, Bart., the Secretary and Director, and Sir Somers Vine, the Assistant Secretary and General Sub-Director, were in attendance.

The Lord Chancellor was, by acclamation, unanimously re-elected Chairman of the Governing Body.

The members of the Executive Council were unanimously re-elected to serve on the Council; committees and sub-committees were elected, and the Institute of Actuaries was, on the recommendation of the Council, added to the list provided by the constitutions of Learned Bodies and Societies entitled to be represented on the Governing Body of the Institute.

At the close of the meeting, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, accompanied by the above-named governors and officials, took the chair at the Annual Meeting of Fellows of the Institute, which was held in the Vestibule. There was a large attendance of Fellows, including many ladies.

The Secretary and Director read the Annual Report, which described the progress made with the buildings and works, the Indian and Colonial Sections, the Commercial Intelligence Department, the Department of Scientific and Practical Research, the Library, News Rooms and Map Room. A proposal for holding in the Institute a series of Imperial Industrial Exhibitions was referred to in the Report, which included a financial statement and a return of fellowships, showing that to date there are 8,479 Fellows on the roll.

At the conclusion of the reading of the report His Royal Highness the President said:—

My Lords, ladies and gentlemen,—It affords me much pleasure to congratulate the Governing Body and the Fellows of the Imperial Institute upon the satisfactory nature of the report just presented. When I first made the tour of the galleries, which form so important a part of these buildings, in May last, after the most successful ceremony and inauguration of the Imperial Institute by Her Majesty the Queen, it was very gratifying to me to find that the exertions of the Governments of India and the Colonies, and of the Colonial and Indian Members of the Governing Body, had resulted, in most instances, in a worthy representation of the different Countries composing the Empire, by collections of their important natural products and sources of wealth. I rejoice to learn

that those collections are to be added to from time to time, and that they are already proving of use and practical benefit to those directly interested in commerce and industries, as well as to intending emigrants. (Cheers.) The very large number of persons of every class, including ladies, who have joined as Fellows from all parts of the Empire may, I hope, be accepted as an indication of the growth of general interest in the Institute, and of increasing sympathy with its objects. I consider that the Report of Progress, to which we have just listened, demonstrates that a very promising commencement has already been made towards the attainment of the most important of those objects, viz., the advancement of the commercial and industrial interests of distant parts of the Empire, and the promotion of their intimate union with each other and with the Mother Country. (Cheers.) In connection with this it is important to remember that the resources at the command of the Governors of the Institute for carrying out its objects are regulated chiefly by the number who join it as Fellows. I am glad to know that the endeavours which have been made to render the Institute and its resources attractive as well as instructive are appreciated, and I feel sure that those who enjoy the advantages which it offers as a place of resort to Colonists, to our Indian fellow-subjects, and to residents in the Metropolis, will not fail to bear in mind that the primary object striven for is the development of the Commercial, Technical, and Scientific Branches of the Institute, the successful operations of which will combine to render it one of the most valuable National Institutions of the Empire, and a fitting memorial of the Queen's Jubilee. (Loud cheers.) It only remains for me to move that this report be received and adopted, and I have much pleasure in calling upon the Lord Chancellor to second the resolution. (Cheers.)

The LORD CHANCELLOR, in seconding the resolution, said : Your Royal Highness, my Lords, ladies and gentlemen, I have been very often asked "What is the use of the Imperial Institute? Is it to serve any practical ends? Has it any really useful objects in view? We know it has been stated, that it is intended to symbolise the unity of the Empire and to exhibit its resources, but will any practical end be served, any valuable result be gained?" I propose, with the permission of His Royal Highness, to say a few words in answer to those questions. (Cheers.) In the first place the existence of the Governing Body of this Institute appears to me a significant and important fact. It is the first representative body ever called into existence on which every part of the British Empire is directly represented. The representatives of the United Kingdom are elected to represent the different parts of the Kingdom. Those who are added in respect of Colonies possessing responsible governments are nominated by the governments of the Colonies they represent, and there is not a part of the British Empire, wherever situated, that has not direct representation upon the Governing Body. (Hear, hear.) Therefore, anything which interests or concerns any part of the Empire will find a direct echo in some of the members of that body. (Cheers.) I cannot help thinking that the mere existence of a body of this description is not only important, but that it possesses at least the possibility of great usefulness in the future. (Cheers.) We have, as you are aware, a very considerable exhibition of the commercial and industrial resources of the different parts of the Empire. Here again it is sometimes asked, "Is this a mere show, or is business intended?" "Is it an exhibition from which any practical good will result?" Now, the galleries have been visited during the months they have been opened—when there were no attractions except the exhibits—by very large numbers of

people. The numbers have varied from 1,000 to 1,500 per day, and that, when there was no purpose or object to be gained except an inspection of the collections. This, I think, at least indicates a very considerable interest in the products exhibited in these collections. More than that, every one who visits them cannot but acquire a knowledge of the resources of the British Empire which it would hardly be possible for him to have been in possession of before he entered this building. The maps and statistic which catch the eye, as well as the products themselves, must afford information about the Colonies and the British Empire calculated to be of the utmost value. (Cheers.) The educational work which the Institute carries on is thus one of vast importance, and in addition to that, enquiries are frequently made by visitors about emigration, and much valuable information is given which may also be important in its results. (Cheers.) The Colonies and India, in sending their products and exhibits, have done so in the most practical spirit, and in the expectation of advantageous results from a commercial and industrial point of view. Although the exhibition-galleries have only been open since the month of May, information has been afforded which has resulted in business. (Cheers.) New demands have arisen for colonial products—such for instance as timber and other products which I could mention—and they have become known and recognised in commercial and industrial circles owing entirely to the exhibition of the collections in this building. (Cheers.) These facts afford to my mind a tolerably sound reason for hoping that the usefulness of the Institute which many anticipated is likely to be realised. Of course the Institute is, as yet, only in its infancy, but it has made a most promising beginning. Beyond what I have stated, the Government of India, and other governments, have invited us to investigate products which hitherto have not had any commercial value, and which, through our action, may come into demand. The Government of India especially have felt that it would be idle to exhibit products which, if commercially useful, could not be supplied in sufficient quantities to meet a commercial demand, but they have sought our assistance to investigate the utility, from a commercial point, of materials hitherto unused which they could produce in ample quantities. I will mention only one subject; that of new fibres. We have had them examined, and the report as to their commercial value is now before the Government of India. I could give other examples, but this will suffice to show the value of the Institute in this one direction alone. (Cheers.) Only recently we have had submitted to us certain dye-stuffs, which are now being examined at the technical college in Yorkshire; and a firm of foreign chemists has applied to us for a supply of materials with a view to see if they can be used in the manufacture of alkaloids. All this goes to prove that the Institute is working in a practical direction, and one which is likely to have and has had important commercial results. (Cheers.) Our library also is largely frequented, and is daily visited by many, and amongst them by merchants in search of practical information for business purposes. That information is always obtainable. (Cheers.) Only the other day a gentleman wrote unsolicited by us to a commercial newspaper testifying to the utility of the Institute and its value from a commercial point of view. (Cheers.) Some people thought that as to the lectures and papers which we have organised, it would be impossible to obtain audiences to listen to them. The first of those lectures took place on the 20th November, and although we are only now at the 20th December 4,990 persons have attended the five given. (Cheers.) Our news rooms are largely frequented and used by Fellows, and I cannot help thinking that it is no unimportant matter that

those coming here, no matter from what part of the Empire, should find themselves at home, and that they should be able to realise, not only the vastness of our Empire and its resources, but also its essential unity. (Cheers.) From whatever part a member may come he will find in the news rooms the latest edition of the leading newspaper published in his Colony. (Cheers.) Over ninety such newspapers are regularly taken in. I could say more about this matter, but I must turn to another point. Some people think we are lowering the character of the Institute and departing from our legitimate work in arranging for concerts, and especially what are called smoking concerts. They tell us that it is beneath our dignity to have such frivolous entertainments. I am not prepared to admit that music is frivolous, and if it is not frivolous in itself it cannot be made so by smoking. But admitting for the sake of argument that they are what is stated. Our entertainments bring us in useful funds. We have to maintain the necessary work of the Institute out of the subscriptions of the Fellows. If we cannot maintain the number of the Fellows, then the useful work to which I have called attention is necessarily diminished and crippled. There can be no doubt that many people like these so-called frivolous entertainments. I include in that number a great many of our Fellows, and I am quite sure that the number of our Fellows is not lessened but increased by them. (Hear.) Not a penny of the income of the Institute which would otherwise be devoted to what are called the legitimate purposes of the Institute is devoted to these concerts, which pay for themselves. If, then, they pay for themselves and they give pleasure to a great number of our Fellows, whose number is increased thereby, I think we are not diminishing but rather aiding, by them, what is called the legitimate work of the Institute. Surely to do this is a wise and not a foolish thing. (Cheers.) We are bound to find in this Country the means for the general administration of the Institute, particularly when the Parliaments of our Colonies and the Government of India have thought it worth their while to vote money to send collections here and to employ curators. Under those circumstances we ought to find sufficient money to meet the wishes of our Colonial and Indian friends, and carry on the general work of the Institute, and this can only be done by our having a large number of Fellows. I think it is a very remarkable thing that in the first year of our existence we should have been able to elect as many as 7,000 Fellows. (Cheers.) We desire to have more, and we shall not feel that the Institute is on a thoroughly sound basis unless we have something like 10,000; this number we could easily attain to if only 30 per cent. of the present Fellows would each introduce a new Fellow. Our subscription is £2 per annum, and for such a sum I do not believe that any other Institute provides so much for its Fellows. (Hear, hear.) There is another matter upon which I desire to touch. There has been some apprehension as to the responsibilities incident to becoming a Fellow, but I say most emphatically that those who become Fellows of this Institute incur no sort of responsibility or liability beyond the amount of their subscription. If they did there would be no need to be frightened, because all our liabilities would be much more than met by our furniture and plant, independent of the endowment fund of £140,000, and the unencumbered possession of our buildings. I have thought it necessary to make these remarks because I feel that the Institute is doing a useful work—a work which is calculated to promote the prosperity of the Empire, and good feeling between the different Countries of which it is composed. (Loud cheers.)

The report was unanimously adopted, and the meeting terminated.



